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Nation

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Two decades of laughter, tears, toil and news

by Will Nicholls

The noted author and journalist Michael Connelly once said, "A newspaper is the centre of a community, it's one of the tent poles of the community, and that's not going to be replaced by websites and blogs."

A Cree teepee has many poles and *the Nation* is proud to have served as one of these essential supports for our common home over the past 20 years.

This milestone is a time for celebration but also for reflection. In life we make many critical decisions; one of the most important is to choose what will become our true passion for work and service during the productive years of our lives.

This determines our legacy. Is it an accident that *the Nation* has survived for 20 years? Luck may have played a role, but passion and commitment is a much larger part of the story.

In November 1993, we embarked on this adventure with no business plan and almost no financial resources. We made up for these deficits with a surplus of youthful energy and idealism. Ernest Webb said back then that we shouldn't be worried about the future, we would simply push this project as far as we would. I don't think any of us ever expected the magazine to last 10 years, much less 20. Every issue that made it to the printer and on to the communities during those first weeks represented a victory.

I must give credit where credit is due: the desire and support of the Cree people of James Bay ensured though that our haphazard business birth was nurtured to the point at which we could finally stand on our own. Since then, our baby has grown up, matured and given birth to several enterprising and successful offspring.

Over the years, our humble little newsmagazine became a vehicle for the far-flung communities of the James Bay Cree to speak to each other, to debate, to disagree and to grow together as a family.

The Nation has published sad stories, struggles-to-overcome-and-survive stories, success stories, first-goose stories, stories about the land, on business, social conditions, role models, community events and so much more. All these stories reflect our people's willingness to share their news tips and lives with the Cree Nation as a whole.

At times *the Nation* was edgy but as Mark Twain stated in an 1889 interview by London's Pall Mall Gazette, "We are also told that our newspapers are irreverent, coarse, vulgar and ribald. I hope that this irreverence will last forever; that we shall always show irreverence for royalties and titled creatures born into privilege, and all that class which take their title from anything but merit."

The Nation has matured in the past 20 years, but it remains a learning experience. Neil Diamond, Ernie and myself had never written news and had to learn on the run. Fortunately, we had help in the form of Catherine Bainbridge, who had worked at the Winnipeg Free Press, and from seasoned journalist Alex Roslin. Later Lyle Stewart would become a copy editor and we learnt even more from this harsh taskmaster, while Martin Siberok now also helps us make sense in our copy.

Our many staff members have been among the best, whether as journalists, graphic designers, salespeople, accountants or production coordinators. There are too many to mention but as a result of their dedication to the Cree readers *the Nation* has gained respect and attention not only in Eeyou Istchee but worldwide.

I am convinced that *the Nation* has a long future ahead: especially if we stay true to the winning formula of professionalism, friendship, fun and, above all, the desire to give something back to the Cree people – the Nation that inspired us to create *the Nation*.

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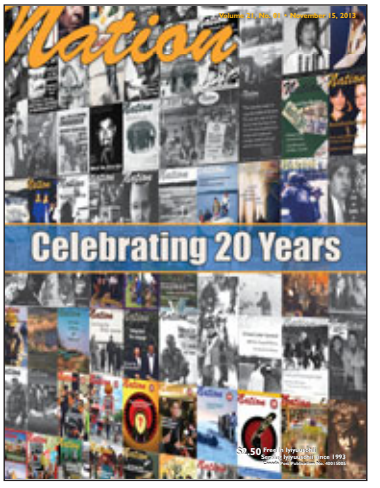

We need a prostate-exam app

by Joshua Iserhoff

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas but not so much in Eeyou Istchee! Snow has fallen but is quickly melting across the region. An Elder has been heard stating that we will have an extended autumn. Best news I've heard since it was announced the Crees would take over the MBJ on New Year's Day.

Anyhow, my friend Nian Moses-Gilpin is happy to announce the Christmas holiday music and fireplace is up on Bell ExpressVu! The channel even crackles and the fire never goes out. This is the best thing ever! If you have an iPad you can download a fireplace app in 3D for free. All of you can be romantic all year 'round.

What can't you NOT find at the App store?! If I could download free consultants I would, my life and work would be much more productive. Are you downloading the fireplace now? I know it's tacky but tackiness is cool sometimes, just ask my friend Tina about her scrunchies.

It being Movember, we are now into the scruffiest month ever! I participated last year and it was worth it. I looked meaner and incredibly masculine. The voice didn't match but I didn't care. I am happy that God gave me a higher octave that could make Pavarotti's living girlfriend jealous.

I'm not a 'stache kinda guy but I do support the vision and I think all men in Eeyou should support this important statement. Movember is about raising awareness and funds to combat prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental illness. I know most Cree men don't like bending over for an intimate poke from a doctor but it could save your life. So go book yourself an appointment with your doc. Trust me, it's like going to a spa!

Speaking of Christmas! All of us can save so much money if we all knew how to shop online. I was one of those skeptics who were wary of divulging our credit card numbers online but you might be surprised how safe it is (knock wood). I've found this method of shopping to be less stressful and incredibly time saving especially for us living so far up north. You can even order tires online, and maids! Friends of mine in the north found a babysitter from abroad to sit their kids. Crazy I know, but it's true. You can find anything on the net, even a wife. Who knows? Maybe I'll explore that option when I'm 80.

Have you heard of the newest, hottest band? Rob Ford and the Senators. Just kidding, but keep them in prayer. I think the whole Cree Nation was at the Bell Centre when the Eagles performed! Best. Band. Ever. My favourite tune, Love Will Keep Us Alive, resonated throughout the arena and I swear I could hear my dear pussycat Edna singing her lungs out.

Many in the crowd were using walking canes. Truly dedicated fans from 1971. And I'm sure each of these guys sees his doctor for a regular prostate probe, so I'll say it again: Get checked. I am sure Mr. Frey would agree with me.

I must salute *the Nation* for its 20th anniversary! I was 15 when the first issue came out and so did I! Cheers to another 20. As they say, wine gets better with age, and so does Will :)

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The one and only

by Sonny Orr

Thirteen years ago, staying at the Val d'Or Friendship Centre and enjoying their hospitality and my anonymity, my cellphone rang. It was Catherine Bainbridge calling me with an offer I could not refuse: to take over the writing of the then-infamous Reznotes column. I asked her what had happened to Neil Diamond, the smart guy who successfully annoyed every politician around for nearly a decade. It turned out that he was walking down a new media avenue called videography and wanted to do basically the same thing, except in a visual format.

I knew that Neil had gained some notoriety with his writings, so I said I would do it, but only if I could use a pen name. I wanted protection in case vicious readers, their appetite for blood already whetted by Neil's sharp penmanship, would feed me to the wolves. Thus, "The One and Only" was born.

During the next two years the greatest mystery of all time went unsolved as furious and adoring fans grappled with the reality that they could be the targets of Reznotes' unbridled fury and rib poking yet finely honed humour. Politicians and anyone who inspired me to write about them became more and more cautious, fearful that some unknown writer could be lurking in their boardroom or sitting at the next table at the diner.

For those first years, the secret of the one and only was known by only a few. This secret was so secure that if WikiLeaks were around back then, no evidence of anyone remotely resembling a ghostwriter could be uncovered. Finally, when just about everyone was pointing accusing fingers at each other, I emerged from my shadowy existence. Soon after that, nearly anyone with a directorship position avoided me, while regular citizens rushed to meet their new literary hero and believe me, I got a lot of back pounding from enthusiastic fans.

Slowly, the Reznotes became an integral part of the Nation, and others began to realize that they could do their own politico bashing and that got me off the hook to concentrate on old-fashioned funny stuff. Occasionally, I would bring up something that bore some resemblance to head bashing, but I tried to be neutral. Shortly thereafter, I became someone politicians wanted be seen with, someone who could poke fun at them, usually at their request, or they would mention something that they wanted to hear about.

I started getting calls from people. My hand was shaken more times than those of politicians. And as the Nation's readership grew, so did the Reznotes fan base. Once, in Great Whale, someone very familiar came up to me and shook my hand so vigorously and asked for my autograph. Then, he and his entourage flew off in their private plane to parts unknown. Those who witnessed that moment wanted to know just when and how the Premier of Quebec got to know me. I was blown away, as I still hadn't figured out who this jovial short guy was. Apparently, Reznotes has fans in Quebec's National Assembly.

At other times, I would be greeted with big bear hugs from local mayors and other small-town leaders. Often, I had to turn down offers of drinks, but sometimes I didn't. Many people who didn't know better thought of me as a journalist and dedicated researcher, but I tried to explain that it was my editor's job to do that. But hey, who listened to me when the wine and beer flowed from the wallets of star-struck fans.

"I WANTED PROTECTION IN CASE VICIOUS READERS, THEIR APPETITE FOR BLOOD ALREADY WHETTED BY NEIL'S SHARP PENMANSHIP, WOULD FEED ME TO THE WOLVES."

Reznotes has come a long way since the beginning first words, to an article that was flavoured with history, poetry, backslapping and shocking insights to our world as seen through the eyes of someone with a close eye on the pulse of the Nation's funny bone. As I have often said to those who asked me how it was done, how did I cover everything from ingrown toenails to groaning about the weather? My secret was to tackle any subject that came to mind and write it down as quickly as possible, so I could carry on with my very normal life.

As for the others who work hard to produce this fine magazine, my hat is off to them, especially those who've had to track me down at deadline time, and my thanks for working with such a great team of people. Happy 20th Anniversary to the Nation. May it live long and prosper!

Signing off from the Great White North, I remain truly yours.

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iFather of the bride

Floyd Visitor attends his daughter's wedding via iPhone

by Akiva Levitas

A wedding is a day to celebrate the growth of a family. For a father to ceremonially give his daughter away is a key moment in the relationship between parent and child.

As Wemindji's Visitor family was preparing for Krystianne Visitor's marriage on October 4 to Adrian Billy Sam, they received the news that the bride's father, Floyd Visitor, had endocarditis, a bacterial infection on one of his heart valves. As his situation worsened, Floyd was medivaced to Chisasibi on October 3.

"It was very emotional because we were looking forward to the wedding and to him giving away his daughter," said Teresa Danyluk, Floyd's wife. "But he had to leave – it was for his health."

When family members heard the news, they were devastated. "At first I didn't want to go through with [the wedding] because they said my father couldn't fly," stated Krystianne. "I wanted to wait until he was able to get back here, but all along my brother and sister had a secret planned."

When the doors of the wedding hall flew open on October 4, there was Floyd at the altar alongside the groom and the minister. Although he wasn't there physically, thanks to the iPhone's FaceTime app, Floyd was able to give his daughter away during the ceremony. "When the minister asked, 'Who is giving away this bride?' Floyd responded, 'I am'," Danyluk said.

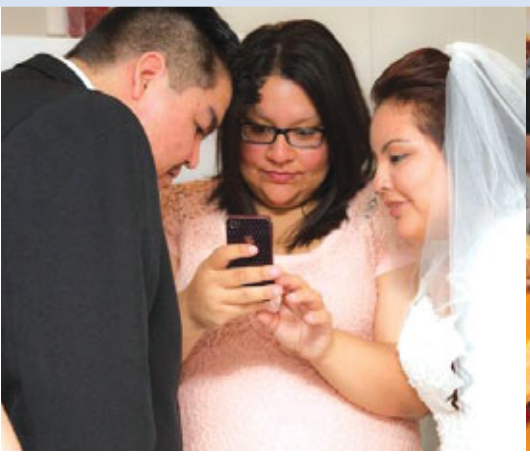
With the help of family friend Bertie Wapachee, Floyd was provided with an iPad in the nick of time. Thanks to the bride's brother Loren, who held up the iPhone at the altar, Floyd's presence was felt at the wedding and there wasn't a single dry eye in the hall. "I wish he could have been there in person," said Krystianne. "But I'm glad that he was able to give me away on FaceTime."

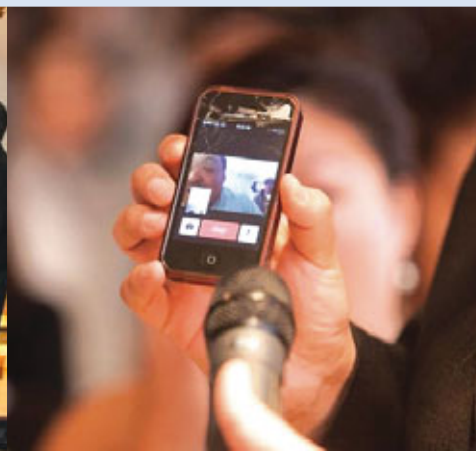
After the wedding, Floyd's stay at the Chisasibi Hospital was cut short. The antibiotics weren't having an effect on him so he was airlifted to Montreal. Prior to his departure, the entire family dropped by the hospital with Floyd's tuxedo so that they could take a family wedding photo.

While at the Chisasibi Hospital, the Visitor family welcomed a new member into the world, after Krystianne's sister, Sequan, gave birth to daughter Peighton on October 30.

In the meantime, Floyd is recovering at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. However, in early November his doctors discovered that the infection had returned, crushing his hopes of returning to the community to see his new granddaughter.

In the next issue of *the Nation*, we hope that we will be able to report on Floyd's recovery. In the meantime, our prayers go out to Floyd's family and friends in this difficult time.





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One safe will be given to each of the nine Cree community winners.

Deadline to submit your story is Friday, November 22, 2013.
The draw will be early December. The nine winners will be announced in *the Nation* on December 27, 2013.

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Poisoning the buffalo

Natives join labour and social groups to fight Harper's destructive agenda

by Lyle Stewart

Don't eat the buffalo given to you by an oil company. This was one telling lesson learned during an address given by Crystal Lameman, a member of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation in northern Alberta near the province's massive tar sands developments, during a remarkable event hosted by the civil society organization Common Causes November 1 in Calgary.

Lameman, also a climate and energy campaigner for the Sierra Club, recounted a story of how corporate and government reassurances about reclaiming tar-sands sites amount to empty propaganda.

One such site has been populated with a bison herd over the past few years. Seeking to generate a positive publicity event, the oil company donated several harvested animals to local Elders to fill their freezers.

"Instead of eating the meat, the Elders took it for testing," Lameman recounted. "They discovered it was unfit for human consumption."

For Lameman, the anecdote illustrates the reality that reclamation projects do not repair the poisoning of the water and land that results from unbridled resource development, particularly in the tar sands.

It was a story that riveted audiences during several days of grassroots protest surrounding the Conservative Party convention in Calgary October 31 to November 2.

First Nations activists, including many from Idle No More, joined labour and social groups during the convention to protest a hard political turn to the right by the governing party and to build a strong movement with a view toward the next federal election in 2015.

Many expressed the view that, with the Harper government's increasingly successful offensive against civil society, environmental organizations and the current attack on the labour movement, First Nations often stand as the last line of defense to the Conservative effort to submit Canada to corporate rule.

For Lameman and the Beaver Lake Cree, these political choices have life-and-death consequences, resulting in an epidemic of rare cancers and community water supplies that are unsafe to drink.

Her First Nation has documented more than 17,000 treaty violations. "We have every major oil company in our traditional hunting territory," she said. "And none with permission to be there."

Lameman is part of the effort to sue the Canadian government over the treaty violations. In May 2008, the Beaver Lake Cree Nation filed a Statement of Claim in Alberta's Court of Queen's Bench. In March 2012, they were granted a trial, which could become a precedent for other rights violations related to resource extraction.

"As an Indigenous person of Canada I have constitutionally protected rights, as do my children, and it is my responsibility to ensure that I, my children, my future generations will always have that ability to go to the land to hunt, fish and forage. My goal is to preserve and revitalize our rights as Indigenous people."

Every day, she noted, 1.7 billion barrels of fresh water are used in tar-sands operations. Last year in Canada, there were 2.5 million lakes and rivers protected by federal environmental legislation. Now, after the passage of Navigation Protection Act by the Harper government, there are only 97 lakes and 62 rivers that are protected from industrial degradation.

"Who gave this government the right to destroy our fresh-water system?" Lameman asked. "We are economic hostages in our own country."

Lameman and other speakers at the Common Causes event, including David

Suzuki and the Council of Canadians' Maude Barlow, raised alarms over the push for unrestricted natural-resource extraction with no concern for social, economic or environmental consequences.

Lameman listed off a number of multi-billion dollar operations that have the potential to devastate communities while sending most of the resulting profits out of the country to multinational corporations.

They include the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway pipelines, frenetic development of the dirty oil of the tar sands, the push for more uranium and potash mines, unrestricted hydroelectric development, and the growing fracking operations for shale gas.

In the end, Lameman asked prophetically, "Can you drink your oil? Can you eat your money?"

But there is hope in cooperation, and coalitions between communities and peoples across Canada have the power to fight for a more promising future, Lameman emphasized: "We are here, we exist and we are not going anywhere."

Lameman invited those interested to learn more about the tar-sands lawsuits to visit www.tarsandstrial.ca

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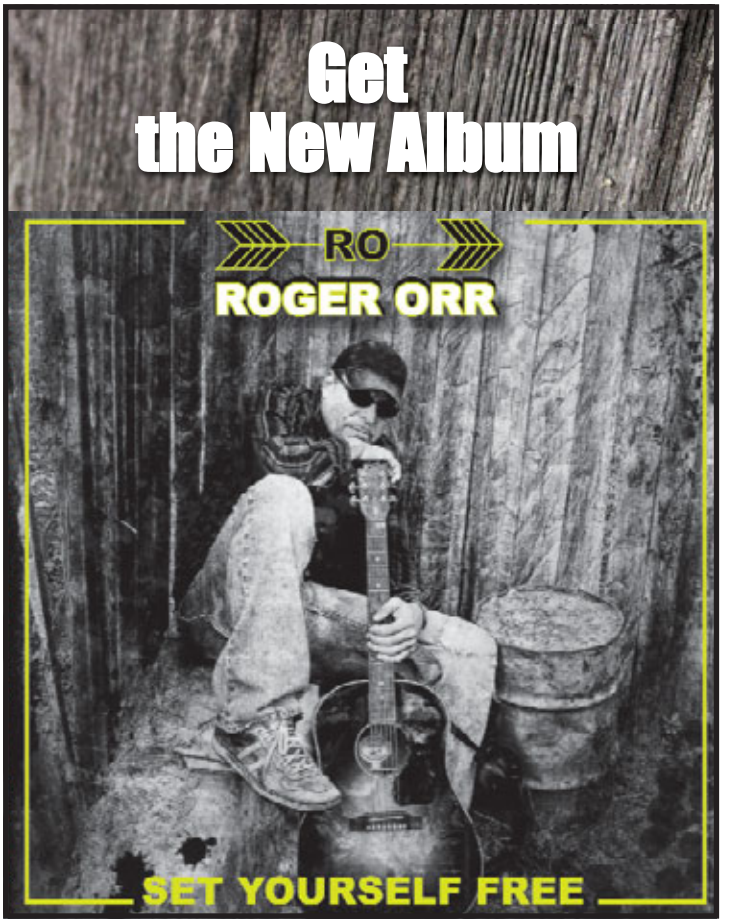

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New research centre opens in Chisasibi

A new centre opening in Chisasibi will offer information about Cree society, the land, water and national resources to encourage economic development in Eeyou Istchee.

According to project coordinator Eric House, the activities of the Cree Research Centre will be split up into three sections: a research-and-development wing, a business incubator and a capacity-building section.

The research-and-development component will work to collect technical research about regional natural resources, as well as social-sciences research undertaken within the communities. The business incubator will support new enterprises in collective and private businesses. Finally, the capacity-building component of the centre will encourage technical skills and training.

"We [in the] Cree Nation have our own way to generate knowledge by observing our environment and our land," explains an information sheet from the centre. "We will conduct research based on our traditional ways, not [just] with modern scientific tools."

To that end, the centre promises to mix the knowledge and wisdom held by Elders and passed down from ancestors with information derived through more scientific methods.

Though priority will be given to those topics that promise to generate revenue for the Cree Nation or that can be applied to planned and ongoing projects, the centre will be open to new ideas such as agricultural development, which could help guarantee another source of fresh food for Cree communities.

Extraction companies face growing Native resistance

A new report highlights a massive failure by natural resource-extraction firms to obtain consent from First Nations communities for projects in Native territories throughout the US and Canada.

The Indigenous Rights Risk Report, a recent study conducted by First Peoples Worldwide, analyzed a total of 52 resource extraction companies in both countires to show just how much risk companies can face when they operate on Indigenous land.

The report is the brainchild of Rebecca Adamson, the president and founder of Indigenous People's Worldwide. It demonstrates the need for a real dialogue between corporations and Indigenous peoples over resource development to obtain communities' free, prior, and informed consent in order to avoid costly shutdowns.

"Out of the 52 companies, only five had Indigenous people's policies and only one had an Indigenous people's policy that explicitly committed to free, prior and informed consent," said Nick Pelosi, corporate engagement assistant with First People's Worldwide.

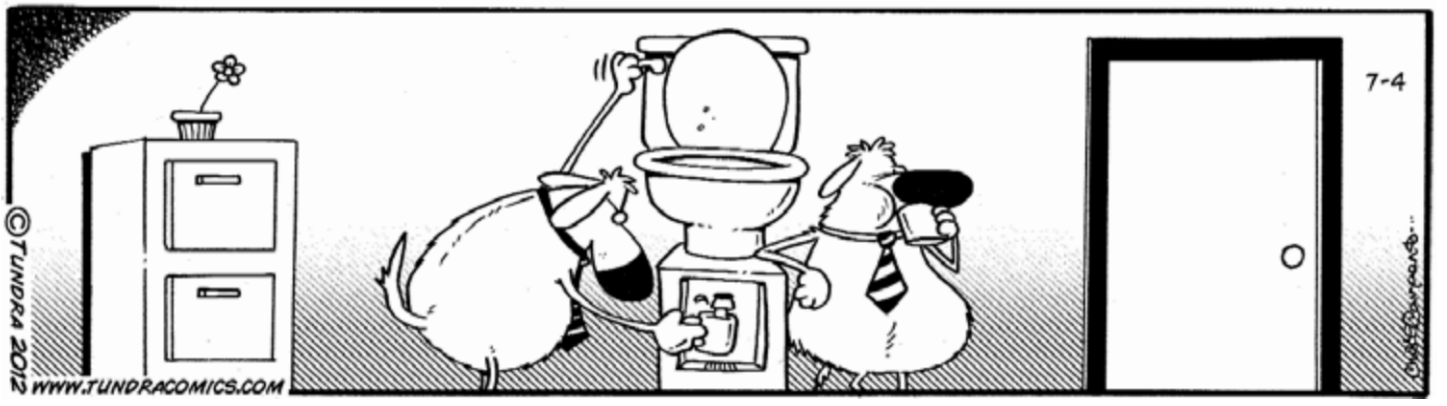
The anti-fracking protests in Rexton, New Brunswick, is an example of what can happen without the consent of a community. Tensions flared when RCMP moved in with pepper spray and rubber bullets to violently end a peaceful protest by members of the Elsipogtog First Nation, culminating in 40 arrests.

This sudden turn of events brought the community risk level in New Brunswick from a four to a five, which is the highest rating. "We want to get more investors involved with incorporating Indigenous Peoples in their portfolio decisions," said Pelosi.

Anti-fracking protests in Rexton, New Brunswick

contest

In collaboration with *the Nation* on its 20th anniversary, Car Canada is offering an oil change for only 49.99 plus taxes to a contest winner every month for the next year! To enter, simply go to www.nationnews.ca and subscribe to receive a FREE online copy of *the Nation* every two weeks.



Of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world...

Nurse Nian Matoush

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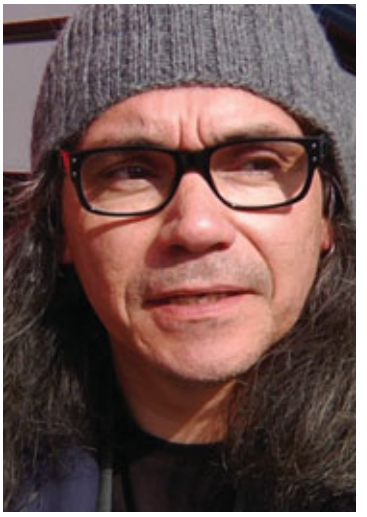
Eary shot of *the Nation* gang



The Nation's four original partners – Catherine Bainbridge, Will Nicholls, Linda Ludwick, and Ernie Webb

The journey so far

The Nation's founders reflect on our first 20 years

by Amy German

Twenty years ago this week, the founders of this publication put together the first issue of *the Nation* with no expectation there would be a second – much less a thousand more stretching over two decades. They had no budget, no equipment and no guidelines. But they had a deep passion to create a new, original and independent media for Eeyou Istchee. That long ago passion now has a 20-year legacy of writing, reporting, friendship and triumph.

The Nation's four original partners – Will Nicholls, Linda Ludwick, Ernie Webb and Catherine Bainbridge – set out with the goal of creating the best publication they could make but little did they know that 20 years down the line, they would still be publishing what is now one of Canada's oldest Aboriginal news magazines. Nor could they have imagined that from *the Nation* they would have also created Beesum Communications, Rezolution Pictures, Minority Media and various other award-winning projects.

To capture that youthful passion from long ago, *the Nation* put four questions to three of the four founding fathers and mothers (Bainbridge chose to have Ernie Webb, who is now her husband, speak for the two of them).

1. How does your original vision of where you all thought you would be in 2013 compare with where you actually are now?

2. What have been your biggest milestones with the company?

3. Looking back, what is your most definitive Nation moment or memory that defines your career with this publication?

4. What do you want to accomplish over the next 20 years?

Editor-in-Chief Will Nicholls

For me it hasn't really changed. *The Nation* started as a result of feeling the Cree people of James Bay needed information in order to make decisions concerning their survival as a people and a Nation. Simply knowing the land, the animals, plants and how they interconnected in Eeyou Istchee was no longer enough. The La Grande hydroelectric project taught us that, the Great Whale project reinforced the concept of a need to know the environment outside of

Will Nicholls with the 1st edition

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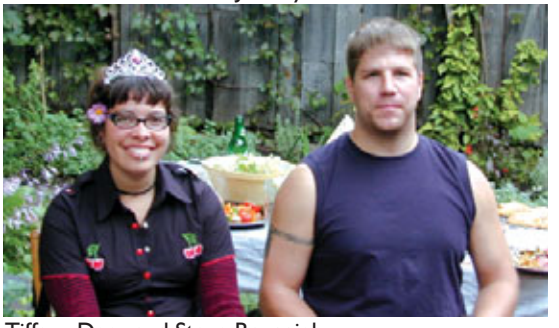
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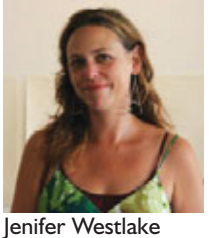
Jenifer Westlake

Eeyou Istchee and how it could affect the Cree people and nation as a whole.

We decided right from the start that we would try to report all sides of a story. Our aim was to give people enough information so they could make their own minds up on the crucial issues we face as a Nation.

That is still the underlying vision that we do our best to uphold. It isn't easy by any means as *the Nation* pays its own way with no grants at all.

The only difference from the beginning is that we have more experience and are more professional. In the beginning only one person had any background in print media but we weren't intimidated by the challenge. How well we learnt the business is evident in the over 100 awards we have received in the past 20 years. As for comparing where we are now with where we thought we would be that's a hard question. In the beginning we didn't really plan for a run of 20 years. It was a case of survival from one issue to the next and we had an attitude of let's see how long we can last.

2) I would have to say that the biggest milestone came when we were finally able to start paying ourselves. For the first 10 months no one was paid and any money coming in went to pay bills and buy equipment. Anyone who starts a business knows this feeling of accomplishment when you feel comfortable and are earning enough to do that. It's such a proud moment.

Before that it was the response of the Cree people and how they embraced – for the most part – *the Nation* and made it a part of their lives.

3) My favourite memory began as one of our worst experiences as a business. Early on, our office was robbed and all the equipment we had invested in with hard-earned money was gone. It was devastating. Then my home community of Mistissini stepped up to help us out. They gave us an emergency loan of $10,000 and let us pay it back in the form of advertising. I am so thankful for their assistance and the trust they put in us.

At that, when Mistissini signed the agreement with Inmet's Trollius Mines they included a clause that the mine had to purchase a minimum of three full-page ads with *the Nation*. I don't think any other print media, non-Native or Native has ever had that happen. This defined what we were doing and that the Cree people not only approved of *the Nation* but felt we were an important part of the community. I think back to that a lot and as a result do my best in that same spirit to give back to the Cree people what they have given me.

4) I hope I am still in the same job 20 years from now. I enjoy my work and my life. There are not many people who can say this and I feel blessed to be able to do so. Of course I want *the Nation* to grow and I hope that I will continue to grow with it. I want to thank everyone who has made this life possible: our readers, our supporters, all the staff over the years, my partners for never losing faith in what we are doing, my family for understanding why I have to do this, our advertisers without whom we would not still be in business and my friends for all their words of wisdom and kindness throughout the past 20 years. I look forward to 20 more years and, more importantly, what the Cree Nation will accomplish as we continue to document the issues, achievements and culture of our people.

Linda Ludwick

Linda Ludwick was *the Nation*'s original accountant and is now Chief Financial Officer for the many business entities that are part of the Beesum Communications family.

1) I am very impressed with where we are, but in a sense I am really amazed that we lived through it as sometimes I thought we wouldn't make it. But I would say that we are doing quite admirably considering the fate of so many publications.

We have become an institution to a certain degree.

We had to find ways to keep *the Nation* buoyant and so we created other companies so that we could have Beesum contributing to and supporting *the Nation* to maintain its vital role in the life of the James Bay Cree.

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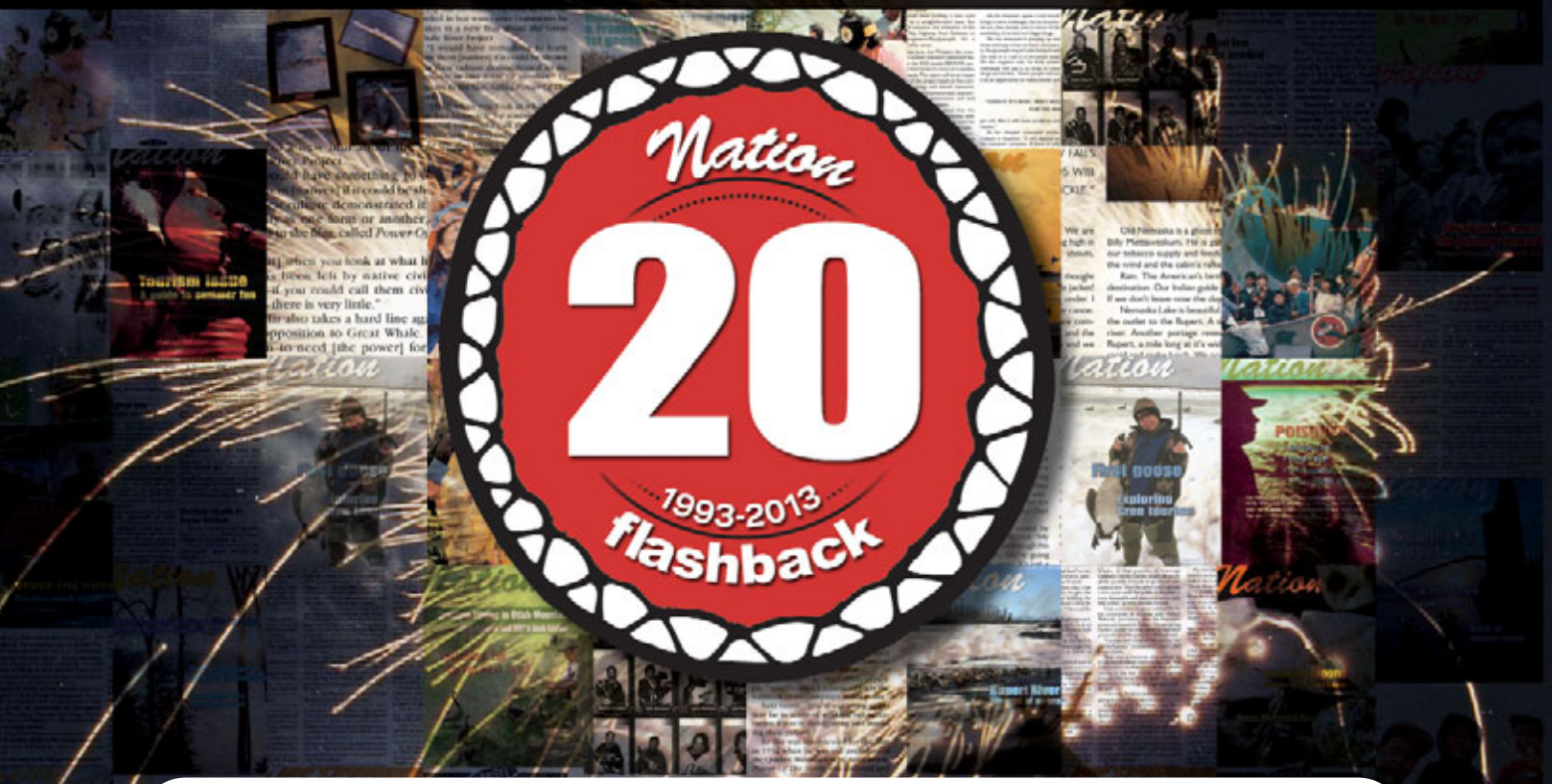

Thank You – Meegwetch – Merçi - ᒪᓂᓀᐦᐃᒋᑎᐣᓀᐦᐠ!

The entire *Nation* team would like to extend their deepest thanks to the sponsors who helped guarantee the success of our 20th anniversary by sponsoring the Flashback Center Spread throughout the past year.

We truly appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to serving the organizations and people of Eeyou Istchee for many years to come.

Meegwetch,
The Nation team.

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2) My milestones were to have the paper recognized as a viable and respected business.

3) I was really thrilled that *the Nation* made it to 15 years. But it also gave me the opportunity to travel to Great Whale. It was absolutely breathtaking and just a wonderful trip.

4) As for the next 20 years, one day I hope for retirement but before that I want to ultimately make sure that *the Nation* is up and running with the successors it needs to keep it alive.

Ernie Webb

1) For me personally, I didn't really have a vision. All I really wanted was a magazine or a newspaper to serve the Cree people.

I think it was when I was working in radio, working as my own producer, that I became frustrated because there were so many issues that I wanted to cover but couldn't because it was so hard to get a hold of people and talk to them, especially when you had to produce a show every day.

It was at that time that I thought to myself that we needed a magazine or a newspaper to serve the people and that is where the incubation of that idea started for me.

The people also needed to know what was happening on their behalf and this was a service that we provided to the people. It certainly wasn't to get rich.

Working in radio I heard about a lot of things that were happening that were never exposed to the people that they really should have known about. I had people coming up to me all the time to tell me these kinds of things but they were really shy to speak out. I think that is changing these days.

2) In terms of milestones, initially it was having that acceptance from the people. When we first started it was in November/December and it was only six months later that it seemed as though people could let out that breath that they had been holding and started sending us classified ads. Before that, I think they were half expecting us to go under. At the six-month mark that we realized the communities were showing their confidence in us.

Seeing our circulation go up was another milestone. Then seeing people become more comfortable with sharing their views with us.

3) What touched me the most were the poems and stories that people sent in about the things that had really affected their lives. I think that this is one of the things I am most proud of.

People started approaching me and speaking about issues that needed to be covered. A lot of the time they asked to remain anonymous for fear of repercussions. That situation is changing now but at the beginning people were afraid to speak out. I think it has come to the point where people take the paper for granted and I like that.

4) The next 20 years? Man, I am not sure if I know what I would like to accomplish next week.

Of course I want to see *the Nation* continue in one form or another, especially with all of the new technology that we have coming out. Lots of mainstream papers have seen their circulation numbers drop for the print editions while their internet subscribers have gone up. I don't know how we will respond to this. It might be different for us, especially with our northern audience.

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I think that we probably need an app.

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Through our leaders' eyes

Cree chiefs, past and present, speak about *the Nation*

by Amy German

According to its founders – Will Nicholls, Ernie Webb and Catherine Bainbridge – *the Nation* was started as a means of keeping the Cree people informed of the politics that were shaping their daily lives and keeping the Cree leadership on its toes.

In celebration of 20 years of stories about Crees and the people who mattered to them, various leaders express their take on what having an independent publication has done for Eeyou Istchee over the past two decades and the impact it has had on their own political and administrative careers.

The following four questions were sent to several prominent Cree leaders to get their views on *the Nation* and to see how it has felt being scrutinized by the magazine.

1) The creators of *the Nation* magazine said their inspiration for developing the magazine was to create a public record. Coming from the perspective of a politician, how did you see this play out?

2) How do you feel *the Nation* covered you over the span of your political career?

3) Do you have a favourite memory of the magazine or moment in time that you would like to share?

4) Is there anything else you would like to add?

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come

1) There is no question whatsoever that a healthy democratic Nation requires a dynamic and rigorous journalism sector. This is required for two basic reasons. First, there needs to be a chronicle and record of the important events occurring within a Nation, both on a day-to-day level and for those events which take on longer term historical importance. The other fundamental reason for having a vibrant journalism sector is to put the government of the day under scrutiny on behalf of the larger population who must evaluate the performance of the government and who must exercise their responsibility in making choices regarding leadership during times of elections.

In combination, these two roles of journalism result in our having an informed population so that democracy can work. Without an informed population the door is opened to abuses of power and abuses of authority. A healthy journalism sector is part of the "checks and balances" that a democratic society requires that prevents abuses.

The Nation has consistently reported on, and recorded, events and issues in the Cree Nation. You have done an excellent job of reporting on our Annual General Assemblies, major special Assemblies and important events as they have unfolded.

The Nation has also taken every Cree leader to task on important issues of the day and it has demanded that we be accountable.

Although there were times when I disagreed with *the Nation*'s editorial positions on certain key issues, I feel very comfortable in saying that, by and large, *the Nation* magazine has carried out its journalistic role for the benefit of the people of Eeyou Istchee.

2) As I mentioned, it is the role of journalism to hold politicians and leaders accountable. At the same time, it is the role of leaders to move forward on a vision and on an agenda. Sometimes, as each carries out its responsibilities, there is conflict, but I think it is normal and it is appropriate for there to be a healthy tension between journalism and government. So long as that healthy tension is accompanied by a healthy respect for each other then the outcome tends to be positive.

Will Nicholls and Alex Roslin interviewing Matthew Coon Come a few years ago

Department of Justice and Correctional Services

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The Cree Regional Authority Department of Justice and Correctional Services (DOJCS) congratulates *The Nation* magazine for twenty years of serving Eeyou Istchee!

The Department of Justice and Correctional Services with over fifty dedicated Cree staff located in the justices facilities in the Cree communities, two CAVAC (victim services) offices and one regional correctional services office, we are here to offer you, and your community, an array of essential justice programs and services that respect Cree traditions, values and ways. Services continue to improve upon the legal system, support better rehabilitation and reintegration for Cree clientele, implement and organize crime prevention programs, support community based restorative justice hearings and programs, offer victims' services, and engage life skills/family strengthening initiatives in your community. The Department is committed to public safety and improving the administration of justice for all people of Eeyou Istchee.

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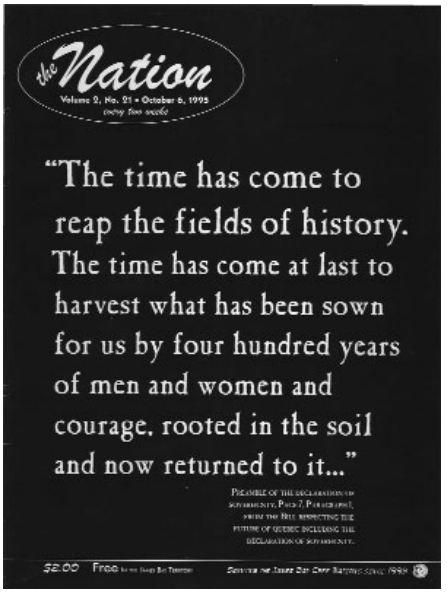
Although I didn't always agree with *the Nation*'s editorial positions on certain issues, and there were times I didn't agree with the way in which certain issues were reported on, by and large, I have found *the Nation* to be understanding of the larger vision for the Cree Nation which has been the basis of my leadership and fair in the way in which that has been portrayed.


the Nation
"The time has come to reap the fields of history. The time has come at last to harvest what has been sown for us by four hundred years of men and women and courage, rooted in the soil and now returned to it..."

Preamble to Quebec's declaration of sovereignty

3) When I look back on my tenure as Grand Chief, I see as one of the pivotal turning-points in Cree history our collective response to the possibility of Quebec secession at the time of the 1995 Quebec referendum. It was a critical moment when we came together in the greatest display of our Cree unity around an issue that had a potentially huge impact on our territory and on our treaty. The coverage of that special time in our history by *the Nation* was extremely helpful in explaining the position of the Grand Council to our people and in helping them to make an informed decision not only for the Quebec referendum, but also for the referendum the Cree Nation itself held about that issue. I will always be grateful to *the Nation* for its role at that moment in our history.

4) Over the past 40 years of Cree history we have made major breakthroughs and achievements in obtaining the recognition of Indigenous rights and the translation of those rights into tangible benefits for our people. For those of us who have been intimately involved in those struggles and those achievements, we have all learned so much along the way and we have grown and matured personally and professionally. I don't think you would mind my saying that, in my opinion, *the Nation* has also grown and matured over the last 20 years since it first began publishing. *The Nation*, as a result of that growing maturity, has gained more respect and credibility from the people of Eeyou Istchee. I look forward to seeing *the Nation* continue its important role in keeping our people informed about key issues of the day and reporting on the different views and perspectives which our people may have on those issues.

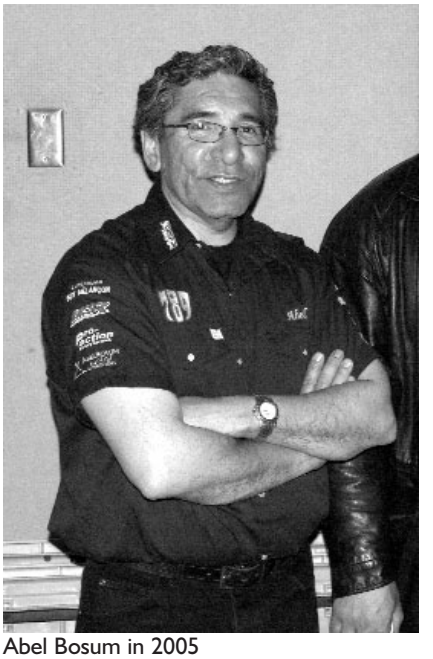
Abel Bosum, former Chief of Oujé-Bougoumou

1) If the objective, at the outset of *the Nation*, was to ensure that there would be a record of Cree life over the years, it certainly has done that. And, in fact, there is really no other entity or initiative in the Cree world that has done that as thoroughly and as consistently as *the Nation* has. I find it very interesting to review past issues of *the Nation* going back 20 years and, in a sense, reliving those times and reliving the events captured in the magazine's articles. Reviewing those old issues also helps in giving an understanding to the major events in Cree history over the last 20 years by providing a feel for the times and the circumstances in which those major events took place.

2) Well, I need to be honest with you. I have felt that over the years there has been both excellent coverage of events I have been involved in, and there has been coverage that I felt missed the mark. During the time I was Chief of Oujé-Bougoumou, my community went through some very long and very difficult political struggles just to be recognized as a distinct Cree community and that we had a right to a permanent village. We also had a remarkably exciting time concluding our agreements with Quebec and Canada and then going on to plan and build an award-winning village. During all that time, *the Nation* was very supportive and did an excellent job of reporting on the status of our political struggles and in reporting on our eventual achievements and successes.

After stepping down as Chief, I became involved with the Grand Council on important regional negotiations. Probably the most important of those regional files was the negotiations of the Paix des Braves. As you know, *the Nation* took a very critical position

> I particularly looked forward, as everyone else did back then, to the "personals" section when people in the Cree communities sent messages to each other via *the Nation*.



Abel Bosum in 2005

Nation

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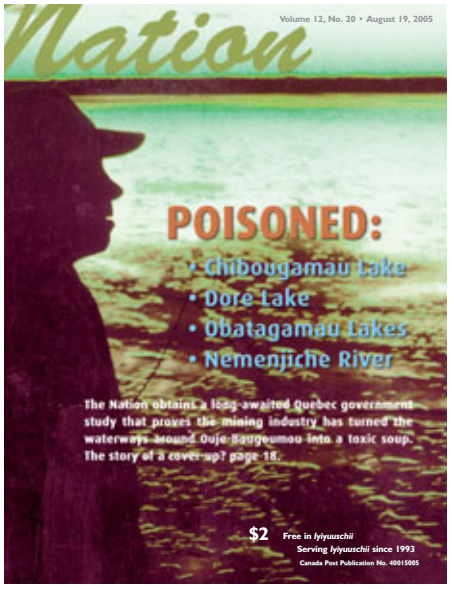
regarding that historic agreement and, in my opinion, went too far in its personal attacks on both the Grand Chief at the time, Ted Moses, and to some extent on the whole negotiating team. I felt, at the time, that this was unfair and that the criticisms weren't based on a full understanding of the Paix des Braves and the circumstances which made that agreement possible. I think that as time has moved forward the people of Eeyou Istchee have come to better understand the Paix des Braves, how it has positively benefited our communities, and I think there has been an appreciation of the efforts of our leaders at the time.

Around the same time as we were trying to establish a new relationship with Quebec through the Paix des


Nation
Volume 12, No. 20 • August 19, 2005
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• Obatagamau Lakes
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Braves, we became aware in Oujé-Bougoumou of the presence of contaminants in our traditional waters resulting from the mining activities of the past. To address that issue, we knew that we needed to conduct a number of studies to determine, first, whether our people were being harmed by those contaminants, and then to determine whether there was a long-term environmental risk involved as well. For the first time in its history, Quebec agreed to our insistence on establishing a joint approach to dealing with this issue in a very comprehensive and scientifically sound way. Both Quebec and Oujé appointed an expert to represent them in a committee that guided all the studies that needed to be undertaken. We went to great lengths to find the most qualified experts to represent Oujé.

Many of us in Oujé felt that *the Nation* had taken an extreme and an overly alarmist position on this issue and, in fact, accused us of covering up what was happening. This was not only far from the truth but also very hurtful, especially for those of us who had devoted so many years to struggle on behalf of the community members to improve the quality of their lives. As a result of our hard work over the course of the last 12 years, we have now secured a commitment from Quebec to make a very substantial financial contribution toward the restoration of the affected waters.

I do have to say, though, that in more recent years *the Nation* has done a very good job of covering events in the Cree Nation. I was particularly pleased with the way in which the magazine has covered the events around our new Governance Agreement, and this has been very much appreciated as it provided good information to the people of Eeyou Istchee.

3) I remember when *the Nation* first began to be published and how proud I felt about the young Cree individuals who showed initiative in starting up their own magazine, and I remember looking forward to each new edition in those early years. I particularly looked forward, as everyone else did back then, to the "personals" section when people in the Cree communities sent messages to each other via *the Nation*. There were all kinds of messages and it was so much fun reading them. Now Facebook, Twitter and texting have replaced all that, but at the time those were very special moments.

4) Although I have had my concerns about *the Nation* in the past, I have tried to view things in context. When we are young we tend to be more confrontational, more challenging and we tend to see things more in "black-and-white" terms. I was that way myself when I was younger. As we grow older we tend to be more thoughtful and we become more understanding of the grey areas in life, the areas in between the black and the white, in our personal lives and in our work.

I guess that the important thing is whether the commitment is there towards the truth and if there is respect for the truth. If that respect is there I always have faith that the thoughtfulness will eventually emerge. In my way of thinking about it, that is the change I have witnessed with *the Nation* over the years. I congratulate you on your 20th anniversary, and I am very optimistic about the future of *the Nation* and I believe it will continue to play an important role in the life of the Cree Nation.

Former Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iseroff when he ran for Youth Grand Chief

Ashley Iserhoff, former Deputy Grand Chief

1) First of all I want to say congratulations to *the Nation* on its 20th anniversary!

For any society to function properly, people need to be informed. And way back we didn't have a mechanism for proper communication to address the Cree Nation.

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Moose Cree First Nation

Congratulations to *the Nation* team for 20 years of great reporting on news and events around Eeyou Istchee.

A great achievement!

Niskamoon Corporation wishes to congratulate the Nation magazine for their 20th Anniversary! The first independant Cree news publication in Eeyou Istchee and beyond. Congratulations to the team.

NISKAMOON CORPORATION

Congratulations!

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Over time we adjusted and changed part of this with radio and print and filling that void was *the Nation*.

When it came out in the 1990s it gave us a means for communication throughout the Cree Nation for the people to tell them what was going on, what was being discussed, all of the agreements that were being signed and all of the consultations that were taking place.

All these different things were going on and the people needed to be informed. *The Nation* played an important role in informing the people on what was going on politically and throughout the territory.

2) When it came to telling my own story about where I was before (with my weight and health) and how I changed my lifestyle, I hope that sharing my story was able to make a difference in the lives of others. I am really hoping that the readers out there got the feeling that they could do the same thing and change their lifestyles. I think *the Nation* did an excellent piece on that.

I loved the idea of promoting health, promoting that you can get well and that things can get better. I guess that was the punchline in my story.

3) In the late 1990s the Journey through the Heart of Eeyou Istchee took place. I remember when the idea was going around in the fall of 1998 or 1999, it was that year when we started promoting the idea to the Cree people.

We didn't know how big this was going to be when we started out, but once *the Nation* started covering it and, as the walkers went from one community to the next, it gained so much momentum.

For those who don't remember, this walk was also done to raise money for dialysis machines so that our people could return home for treatment instead of being shipped out to the cities.

The Nation played a huge role in this by keeping everyone informed as to what was happening and what the youth were doing. It inspired a whole generation and gave them new hope by showing that the youth was there for them and there to help.

I will always remember that journey; I participated in it from Waswanipi to Mistissini. It was a remarkable time and the magazine was a huge part of it.

4) As far as what I am currently doing, I am taking some time to reflect on what I will do next. It has been three months since the last election and it has been pretty nice not to have to go on anybody else's schedule. I am working on my own agenda right now and part of that involves a lot of reflection to see where I should be going from here.

It's nice to be able to sit back and think and read. Also I've been out hunting a lot with friends for the past months. It's a really cool life right now.

Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark

1) When *the Nation* first came out, I wasn't a politician, I was a CEGEP student. I was happy to see a Cree magazine talking about contemporary issues, issues related to the communities and also events that were happening outside of the communities. I thought this was very interesting.

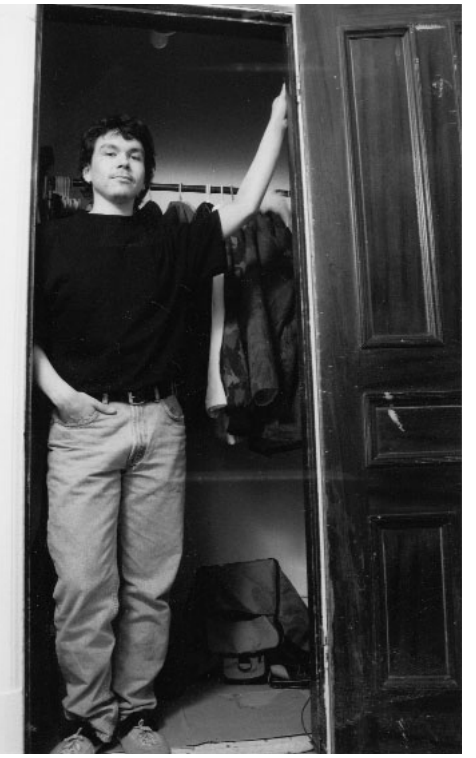
2) As for the impact it has had on the communities themselves, *the Nation* has really made a contribution by stimulating discussions and also letting people know what is happening and engaging them through literature and writing.

I think that is extremely important and so is the fact that it addresses all of these issues in other perspectives while provoking us to question what was going on.

Rodney Mark running for Deputy Grand Chief in 2013

As for how the magazine covered me, it depended on each issue and what was interesting.

The fact that *the Nation* covered the issues that needed to be covered is something that I was thankful for.



Brian Webb

3) The story that stands out in my mind is when Brian Webb wrote the story on being gay in *the Nation*. This really set the tone for the Cree communities when it came to tolerance. To me this said that we are all different but that kind of honesty really had an impact and maybe created more tolerance out there.

There are a lot of people in our communities who have that kind of lifestyle and they are not bullied or judged. It really helped people to be sensitive to this issue and it was brave and bold of Brian to do this.

4) I would like to encourage *the Nation* to keep doing what they have been doing – report on the political issues that are being discussed, question the politicians and let the people know what is going on.

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Cree School Board
Commission Scolaire Crie

Sometimes people aren't as proactive as they could be with the stuff that is happening with their local and regional councils. It is hard for all of the leaders to let everybody know what is happening at all times. They do the best they can and at the end of the day sometimes somebody will show up and say I didn't know this.

Paul Gull

Paul Gull, Chief of Waswanipi and former Deputy Grand Chief

1) When *the Nation* started out, I was asked to be part of the editorial board, but I said, no. I didn't want to do that but I did want to see how they were going to develop it and that I would support it.

Originally, I supported the idea that we needed the magazine. But it was funny how it played out because people at the time thought it was going to be like a Cree National Enquirer.

Back in the 1990s, I was not working for the Grand Council but was Chief of Waswanipi, not long before this we had started up the Cree Nation Youth Council and I was very involved in that.

I was also at the Cree School Board, serving as its President when *the Nation* started up.

> I remember a quote in *the Nation* that people liked when I said, "The land is our dictionary."

Over the years it has really helped to reveal what we were doing as a School Board. I remember a quote in *the Nation* that people liked when I said, "The land is our dictionary."

As our language is from the land, everybody really seemed to remember that quote.

I remember another time where I thought I was going to make the front page and I ended up being a pin-up on the interior, lol!

2) I guess in terms of milestones, *the Nation* really highlighted certain areas like when I left the school board.

They also highlighted when I became Chief of my community and at the time I started pushing this idea of change and I think Will wrote it up as "a wave of change."

He did a story on me as I had just come out of university and after three years away from politics I had come back and I had studied change as an idea of change for our communities.

But you know, all of this happened before Obama made it cool. It was new and a refreshing idea.

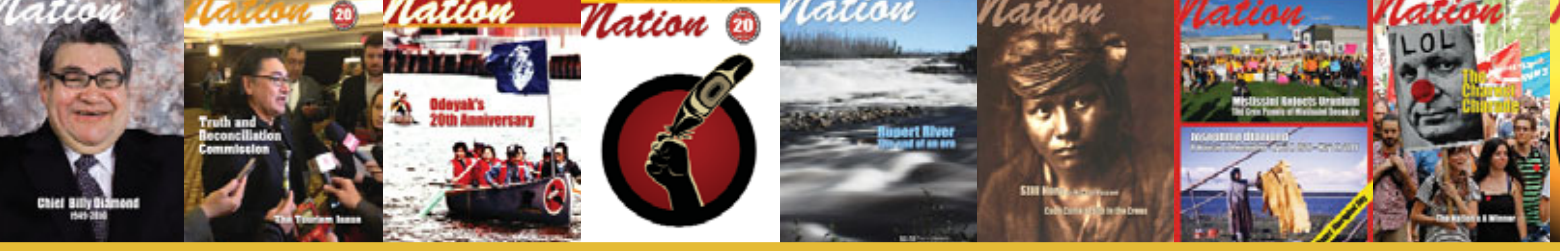
Over the years *the Nation* has helped me and at times guided me when it came to other political leaders like Ted Moses or Billy Diamond.

A lot went on when I was Deputy Grand Chief under Ted Moses as we were doing the negotiations for the Paix des Braves. We had negotiations that broke down, and we changed negotiators. One moment I would be in, then out, then back in – it all seemed to depend on the situation.

We had to play different roles, depending on what they needed, whether it was a diplomat or the devil's advocate. Ted at the time picked Abel (Bosum) to be the diplomat and so that is how it worked out.

3) I am really proud of what *the Nation* has brought out to the Crees in terms of communications and people. I know people who get onto Air Creebec flights and *the Nation* is the only thing they will read.

When you get down to the grassroots, this is how people know about our leadership, how they know us and it has helped the leadership over the years to develop into what we are as an activist Nation that has become more and more transparent. People questioned what we did and they recognized that *the Nation* was a tool for us to talk to leadership.



THE NATION TIMELINE 2009-2013

By Lorraine Carpenter

2009

Jan. 2: Two union associations compete to unionize workers at Cree child-care centres

Jan. 16: Plan Nord scrutinized – Quebec premier Jean Charest causes alarm by referring to his proposed northern development plan as an "occupation"

– Justice gains ground at Barriere Lake. Protesters on Parliament Hill dispute Ottawa's refusal to recognize the Algonquin community's interim leader Benjamin Nottaway, imprisoned for civil disobedience

Jan. 30: The global economic crisis hits the Crees as the Cree Nation Trust loses $140-million in value during the stock market crash

– After nine years, the plight of children attending an uninsulated "temporary" school in Attawapiskat is exposed at the UN

Patrick Brazeau

Feb. 13: Mr. Yes Man – newly appointed Senator Patrick Brazeau defends the federal budget and declares that there are "errors" in Aboriginal thinking

Mike Holmes

March 27: *The Nation* speaks to home-renovation TV star Mike Holmes, keynote speaker at the Cree Construction Conference

– Trekking the Cree coastline – Crees, young and old, make an epic walk along Eeyou Istchee's Hudson and James Bay waterfronts

April 10: Attawapiskat declares a state of emergency after its old elementary school is torn down, releasing massive amounts of toxic benzene into the atmosphere

– The Cree Environmental Internship Program is introduced to facilitate career opportunities in this crucial field

April 24: Indigenous Russians travel to Eeyou Istchee to learn how to survive corporate natural-resource extraction projects

May 8: Birth of a new Cree energy company – the Board of Compensation unanimously passes a resolution to create Eeyou Power

May 22: Body count rising – the Native Women's Association of Canada wins public attention for the tragic stories of missing and murdered Aboriginal women

– The kids aren't alright –a new fitness program is introduced in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation to help address youth health problems

June 5: Balancing the scales of justice – a Chisasibi Cree is named chief judge for California First Nations community

June 19: Ashley Iserhoff kicks off his campaign for a second term as Deputy Grand Chief

– An inspiring force: Chief Billy Diamond makes friends and influences people at an event to encourage the leaders of tomorrow

July 3: The Cree community of Oujé-Bougoumou is finally granted full community member status under the Cree-Naskapi Act

July 17: Climate change criminals – Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are helping to kill the future of the poorest people on the planet

July 31: Digging for justice: ground is broken for new justice centres in Mistissini and Waswanipi

Aug. 28: Getting to know you – Stanley George defeats two opponents to become the new Chief of Whapmagoostui

– The Young Artist Warrior exhibit at Montreal's Native Friendship Centre teaches a revealing lesson in empowerment and pride

Sept. 11: Traditional garments on the catwalk – Mohawk fashion designer Tammy Beauvais celebrates 10 years of

Laura Ekomiak, Chief Stanley George and son Stanley George Jr.

success by teaching her trade to Native youth

Sept. 25: A nation mourns Albert Diamond – the Air Creebec president dies suddenly at age 58

Oct. 9: Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond explores Hollywood's long and dubious history of portraying the North American Native in his smash documentary hit, Reel Injun

Nov. 20: Goal achieved – the First Nations Bank of Canada reaches its ownership objective

Dec. 4: Dam doors lowered on the Rupert River – Crees gather to witness the controversial diversion by Hydro-Quebec of a historical transportation route and food source

Dec. 18: Cream of the Crop – four Quebec Natives win National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

2010

Jan. 1: In his state of the Cree Nation address, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come challenges Eeyou Istchee to seize the opportunity "to become the major force in the economic, political and social life of northern Quebec."

Jan. 15: (Borderlines) Nasty, brutish and short – the death of Daniel Wolfe, the founder and leader of the notorious Indian Posse street gang, provides a stark warning

Jan. 29: Selling the Plan Nord to the Crees – Natural Resources Minister Nathalie Normandeau visits Mistissini to promote the vision of northern resource development

Feb. 12: The federal government launches a legal manoeuvre to shut down a human rights tribunal examining the underfunding of First Nations child-welfare programs

Feb. 26: Cree power play – five Cree communities become partners in the new Eeyou Power corporation

March 12: Olympic fever – over 90 Crees attend the Vancouver Winter Olympics to perform, share, learn and celebrate

March 26: Ellen Gabriel analyzes the throne speech – "It's like saying we are concerned about your health, but we don't care about the air you breathe or the water you drink."

– Many across Eeyou Istchee mourn popular Waskaganish Chief Robert James Weistche after he suddenly passes away

April 9: Making a masterpiece – CerAmony's Matthew Iserhoff discusses the first album from the innovative Cree music group

April 23: Cree connectivity – the announcement of a new broadband fibre-optic network opens the way for Eeyou Istchee to win high-speed access to the online world

Photo by Beatrice Weyrich at United Nations in Geneva Switzerland

Waskaganish Chief Robert James Weistche

May 7: Canada's shame – the federal government of Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper stubbornly refuses to sign the UN Declaration on

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regionale Crie
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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)

Congratulations to the *Nation* on your 20th Anniversary

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) and Cree Regional Authority congratulates the *Nation* on its 20th Anniversary of reporting on the newsworthy events within Eeyou Istchee.

The *Nation* has become an essential vehicle for the communication of important issues within Eeyou/Eenou.

We look forward to many more years of the *Nation* keeping our people informed of important issues facing the Cree Nation Eeyou Istchee.

Congratulations and all the best for the future!

First Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Billy Diamond

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, making Canada a lonely pariah state on a crucial human rights issue

May 21: The Crees, Quebec government and environmental specialists strike a united front in an effort to rehabilitate Oujé-Bougoumou water bodies contaminated by decades of toxic pollution from unregulated mining operations

June 18: High-profile youth leader Shannen Noella Jane Koostachin saddens a generation after her sudden death

August 13: A place to call home – Washaw Sibi selects land base to build a new Cree community

–Barriere Lake unites in opposition on a barricade over the federal government's imposition of Indian Act elections

August 27: Hear them roar – Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association unites women from all Cree communities at the upcoming general assembly in Val d'Or

Sept. 10: Back in the saddle – Abraham Rupert discusses his re-election as Chief of Chisasibi

–Roger Orr celebrates the adoption of a resolution at the Annual General Assembly to protect traditional Cree spiritual practices employed to help treat substance abuse

Oct. 8: Federal government withholds crucial funding from a $10-million budget earmarked for Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women

Oct. 22: Losing a legend – the first Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Billy Diamond, dies at age 61; Bill Namagoose reflects on the life and times of his dear friend

Nov. 5: Mohawk musician, composer, conductor, producer, social activist and energy executive John Kim Bell is honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the Aboriginal People's Choice Awards

Actor Nathaniel Arcand

– Sounding the alarm – the Cree Health Board launches a public health campaign as it releases alarming statistics about type 2 diabetes, including a 25-year projection of the epidemic spread of the disease in the Cree community in 25 years, and to address the problem

Nov. 19: (editorial) 35 years after the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

Dec. 3: Keeping the spirit world alive – Harry Snowboy launches a book about his life as a shaman

– Bowing to pressure – Canada finally signs the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples but some question the government's commitment to respect its recommendations

Dec. 17: Eeyou Istchee honours Smally Petawabano, a former Mistissini chief and a signatory of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, after he passes away

– Journalist kicks open the Cree closet – "I didn't choose to be gay," declares CBC North broadcaster Roderick Rabbitskin. "It's just who I am."

Dec. 31: Standing up to section 74 – Algonquins of Barriere Lake hit Parliament Hill to protest a "puppet council"

2011

Jan. 14: Not just a "screaming Indian on a horse" – Actor Nathaniel Arcand talks about his new TV series Blackstone, and the life of a Native actor in the Western world

– Dollars and ideology – Osoyoos First Nations Chief Clarence Louie wins an Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame Award by promoting free market solutions in Native communities

Jan. 28: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission provides an opportunity to residential school survivors in the north to speak up and be heard

Feb. 11: Mistissini's justice facility opens for business, marking an important milestone on the road to Cree sovereignty

Feb. 25: The way we were – Together We Stand Firm, a documentary about the contentious negotiations for the 1975 James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, is released and opens a window on the past, focusing on the key players at a critical moment of Cree history

March 11: Golden opportunity – The Crees and Goldcorp strike an agreement for mining development

March 25: One step closer – the Washaw Sibi community makes progress toward the founding of a 10th Cree community

April 8: National spotlight – Cree rockers CerAmony score a Juno Award for Best Aboriginal Recording

stornoway
DIAMOND CORPORATION

Since beginning to work within the territory on the Renard Project, Stornoway has had many opportunities to collaborate with the Nation. We greatly appreciate the invaluable information that the magazine provides to the people of Eeyou Istchee, especially the ongoing updates on Stornoway's progress and development.

Stornoway would like to wish the Nation a Happy 20th Anniversary. We thank you for your ongoing support of our projects and wish you all the best in the years to come.

Freddie Mianscum
Mecheshoo Agreement Implementation Officer
on the behalf of Stornoway Diamond Corporation

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–The Cree Health Board targets the chief cause of the Cree diabetes epidemic: obesity

April 22: Elite achievement – Neil Diamond's documentary film *Reel Injun* wins a prestigious Peabody Award

– Standing proud – Guillaume Sylvestre's documentary *Sauvage* offers an astute portrayal of Aboriginals in Quebec

May 6: Fighting for the land – Mistissini organizes political battle for a moratorium on uranium mining

May 20: Romeo Saganash becomes the first James Bay Cree to win a seat in Parliament during the "orange crush" breakthrough for the federal New Democratic Party of Jack Layton

July 1: Plugged in – the Telecom Conference showcases Eeyou Istchee's digital future

July 15: Creative gem – Tim Whiskeychan employs multimedia to bring his artistic vision to life

July 31: Big screen history – Montreal's groundbreaking Native film festival sizzles during the summer heat

August 12: Redemption and rediscovery during the midsummer heat at Heavy MTL

– Road warriors – *The Nation* chronicles the cross-Canada Walkers 4 Justice

Romeo Saganash

Neil Diamond and Russell Means during the shooting of Diamond's documentary film *Reel Injun*

August 26: Inspiration at the AGA – handicapped Cree does what he can to help disease research

Sept. 12: Improving the game – Mistissini hockey camp increases the chances of success for young Cree players

Sept. 26: Everything's changing – report on climate change in Eeyou Istchee highlights the rapidly changing northern environment

Oct. 8: Saganash for PM? Cree MP launches his campaign for the federal NDP leadership after the death from cancer of popular leader Jack Layton

Nov. 4: Marrying sports and studies – 1,200 Cree students are excel on the ice and in the classroom via Quebec's Sport-études program

Nov. 18: Making an impact – former NHL player and coach John Chabot returns to the north to rekindle his hockey passion

Dec. 2: A bridge to the past – Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute opens in Oujé-Bougoumou

Dec. 30: Is the current Indian Affairs Minister John Duncan up to the job? (Reactions from people attending the Special Chiefs Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations)

2012

Jan. 13: Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come says Eeyou Istchee is undergoing a historic evolution in his annual State of the Cree Nation interview.

Jan. 27: (analysis) What the UN can and can't do to help Canada's First Nations – "If Indigenous people do not have the political will or desire to make change, it simply will not happen."

Feb. 10: Meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper leaves First Nations leaders disappointed. "It was little more than a photo op designed to deflect outrage [over] Attawapiskat."

– Fact-finding mission – Wemindji chief and *the Nation* visit Guatemala to get a better understanding of Goldcorp mining operations

Feb. 24: Democracy denied – Barriere Lake residents continue their battle against federal interference; dozens arrested for blocking the main highway connecting Val-d'Or to the south

March 9: Fear in the hallways – New programs tackle bullying in Cree schools. "The bully never remembers. But the victim never forgets."

March 23: A new leader – Davey Bobbish elected as Chief of Chisasibi

April 6: Housing for humanity – Though new prefabs arrive in crisis-stricken Attawapiskat, many residents remain homeless

April 20: Dance like a butterfly – rising Liberal star Justin Trudeau pummels

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Nation on 20 years!

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A young Randy Kapashesit

Native Senator Patrick Brazeau into submission during a high-profile charity boxing match

May 4: No access – an effort to report on a Plan Nord event in Montreal is stymied after an aggressive police face-off with journalists

– Looming demise – the story behind the anticipated closing of Montreal's Native Friendship Centre

May 18: A well-loved leader – MoCreebec mourns the passing of Chief Randy Kapashesit

June 1: Let them eat caribou –federal government makes clear its lack of concern over First Nations food-security issues

June 15: Radioactive rejection – Mistissini reaches consensus on the need to stop uranium-mining project in its territory

– Not like the others: the charismatic Joshua Iserhoff is elected as Eeyou Istchee's new Youth Grand Chief

June 29: Nursing success: Nurse-training program in Chibougamau boasts 100% graduation rate

July 13: Attawapiskat residents are optimistic that a ground-breaking ceremony for a new school symbolizes a better future after a grim record of federal government neglect

July 27: Echoes of a Proud Nation's many colours – Kahnawake's 12th annual powwow serves up a feast for the eyes and belly

August 10: Historic advance – Quebec and Cree sign landmark Governance Agreement at a National Assembly ceremony

August 24: (editorial) The secular mask of racism, on Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois's introduction on the Charter of Secularism to her electoral platform

Sept. 7: Saving the shelter – The Native Friendship Centre of Montreal finds a solution for survival in a new home

– Fighting foetal alcohol syndrome: new strategies to treat the tragedy

Sept. 21: Let's start digging – Stornoway moves closer to opening diamond mine

Oct. 5: Youth emancipation – charity and youth movement Free the Children wins support and spirits in Eeyou Istchee

Oct. 19: Canadian government spends $3-million to fight efforts to address federal underfunding of Native child welfare services at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

Waswanipi's Kevin Blacksmith

Nov. 2: Means was mean but meant well – Remembering the late AIM leader Russell Means

Nov. 16: Mining windfall for Waswanipi – An exploration agreement opens the door for a Vancouver mining company to prospect for gold in Eeyou Istchee

Nov. 30: From foreclosure to sustainability – Waswanipi's Kevin Blacksmith recognized as entrepreneur of the year

Dec. 28: Northern shipping routes – climate change opens polar passage to international marine traffic

2013

Jan. 11: Idle No More – *The Nation* interviews Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence during her historic hunger strike

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Cisco, from father to son

Waskaganish: from the river to the table

The contest runs from October 4, 2013 through December 8, 2013 and is open to members of the Cree nation living in one of the Native communities of Eeyou Istchee who are at least 18 years of age. Limit of one entry per person per day. The winner of the first draw will be announced at 8:00 a.m. on November 13, 2013 during the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. The winner of the second draw will be announced at 8:00 a.m. on December 11, 2013, during the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS.

Nishiyuu Walkers

Jan. 25: Struggle for unity – a First Nations Summit with Prime Minister Harper sparks a painful debate between Native leaders and an energized grassroots movement

Feb. 8: Snow Trek – Cree youth brave the winter elements on an epic winter walk from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa for Aboriginal rights

Feb. 22: Strateco Resources launches legal challenge to a Quebec government requirement that it obtain "social acceptability" from the Cree before it begins to develop a uranium mine in the Otish Mountains region of Mistissini's recognized territory

March 8: Silent no more – annual Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women attracts thousands of protesters across Canada

March 22: Revamping sex-education programs in an effort to combat an alarming rate of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

April 5: Waiters and walkers – *The Nation*'s first-hand report on the inspiring arrival of the Nishiyuu Walkers at their final destination in Ottawa

May 3: Endangered species – Cree launch a determined effort to preserve declining caribou herds

May 17: Sharing a painful past – Chisasibi's Ancita Bugden makes a moving statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee

May 31: (editorial) The late Elijah Harper, a legacy to honour – The Manitoba Cree, who died at 64, made history with his courageous opposition to the 1987 the Meech Lake Accord that snubbed Canada's First Nations as a founding people

June 14: Minting Aboriginal art – new $5 silver coin features an image of an Inuit mother and child

June 28: A high-profile police raid in Waswanipi focuses community attention on drugs and crime

July 12: Breaking the silence – The Waswanipi Elders' Council picks a fight over Elder abuse

July 26: We didn't stop the fire – Quebec government makes no effort to fight huge forest fires near Eastmain as thousands of hectares of northern forest fall to the flames

August 9: Giving life to the ancestors – Wemindji teacher Theresa Kakabat Georgekish keeps Cree culture alive

August 23: Mohawk artist John Lazare gains international exposure as he prepares to exhibit his work in Paris

Sept. 6: Epidemic of hate – extreme and vicious anti-Native sentiment in the wake of massive and often malicious media coverage of the Idle No More movement's fight for justice gains viral momentum in online forums across Canada, as unbridled racism wins social acceptance in mainstream Canada

Teresa Kakabat Georgekish

Sept. 20: Historic land agreement finally ushers Oujé-Bougoumou into the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreemet.

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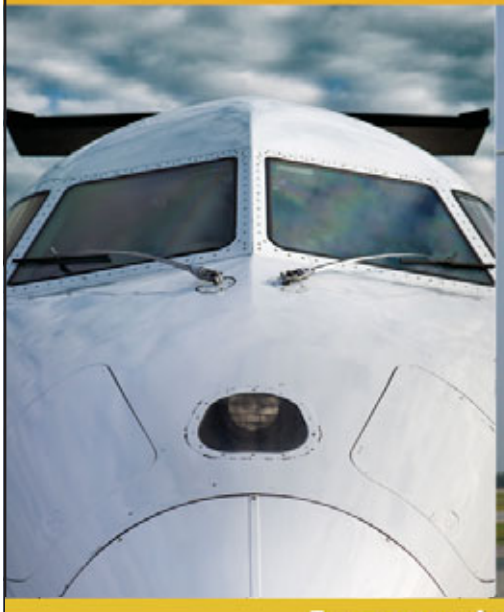

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The Nation's forerunners

We weren't the first news organ devoted to Eeyou Istchee

by Ignatius La Rusic

This issue celebrates 20 years of *the Nation* as the publication of record in Eeyou Istchee. But not many people remember that there had been at least two previous efforts to launch a regional news journal. In April 1976, the first magazine devoted exclusively to Cree news was published. That was *Cree Ajemoon* (Cree stories or Cree news). It appeared five years after the leaders of the Cree communities from the coast and the inland joined together as the Grand Council of the Crees Quebec (GCCQ) to support their court challenges against the Quebec government, and five months after the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) in November 1975.

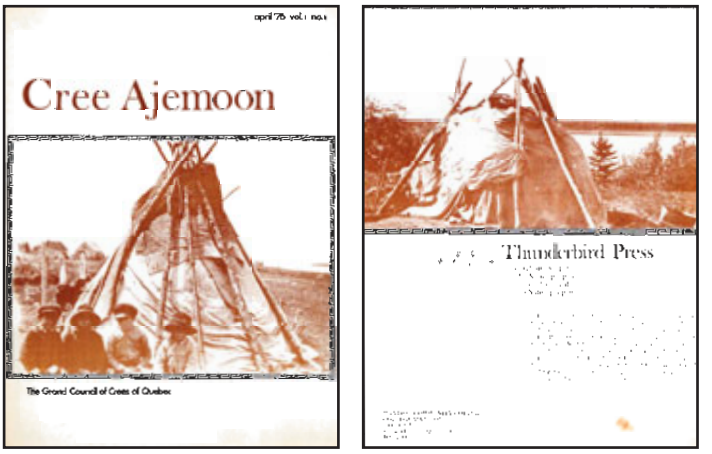
The editorial in the initial issue of *Cree Ajemoon* told its readers that at a meeting in Val d'Or in December 1975 – only a month after the Cree signed the JBNQA – the Board of Directors of the GCCQ discussed the need for a communications strategy which would "present total coverage of community and social affairs along with topics relevant to the population in general."

In today's world of cellphones, Facebook and instant messaging, one has to imagine how difficult communications in Cree communities were in 1976: there were few phones, no local radio, and TV only by satellite for those with electricity. A group of Cree students attending Manitou College in La Macaza took up the challenge to respond to that need by offering to publish a Cree newsmagazine at the college. In April 1976, they succeeded in publishing one issue of a quite classy and professional newsmagazine. Unfortunately, when the Indians of Quebec Association (IQA) closed Manitou College later that year, the students who produced Vol. 1, No.1 scattered to their home communities or to cities. There would be no Vol. 1, No 2.

The co-editors of that collector's issue were Gordon Polson and George Diamond. David Diamond and David Menerick assisted them while Bella Petawabano did composition and layout. A half-dozen other Cree students made a contribution as well, including Morley Loon's *Photo essay of Mistassini*. The content was varied and of high quality. Articles touched on Cree history, politics and culture; there was an unattributed piece of fiction titled *The Hunt*, as well as book and film reviews. The major environmental issues of the day were covered in detail – the Mackenzie Pipeline and mercury poisoning. That initial issue of Cree Ajemoon can still be read with interest today almost 40 years after its publication.

The effort to revive the publication suffered from the constraints of a small staff, scattered communities, together with the limitations of the facilities in Val d'Or in the newly established GCCQ office. This is evident in the five *Cree Ajemoon* issues of Vol. 2, published from July/August 1978 to January/February 1979. The editor was Kenny Loon. Although there are articles on community relocations and the growing Cree bureaucracy, the newsmagazine format has disappeared and it is largely a publication of Cree bureaucratic record rather than a record of community life.

In today's world of cellphones, Facebook and instant messaging, one has to imagine how difficult communications in Cree communities were in 1976.



Before *the Nation* there was *Cree Ajemoon*.

Still, the first issue of 1978 was highlighted by the lyrics to Willie Mitchell's *The Call of the Moose* and, by Vol. 2 No 3, we note the first paid advertising – Job Opportunities announcements – and, in the December issue, a full-page Christmas message from Quebec Premier René Lévesque. (The community focus does not to reappear until *the Nation* arrives on the scene in 1993).

There seems to be no news publication at all between 1979 and June/July 1987, when Diane Reed founds a house bulletin called *Mamoo Yemoon*. While it may have been published for a longer period, I have only Vol. 1, No. 1 to Vol. 1, No. 4. This publication was essentially a simple bureaucratic record and had no community content other than references to the location of a GCCQ meeting. This house organ or bulletin remained on the scene for about a year and disappeared after the December 1987/January 1988 issue. Its main interest today is that the issues contain a number of pictures of youthful Cree luminaries with astonishingly long hair!

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Structural hostility

A falling ceiling panel causes concern at Hotel Forestel

by Jeremy East

When Ancita Bugden checked into Val d'Or's Hotel Forestel on October 19, she was expecting to spend a quiet evening with her two children in – at her specific request – a room in the hotel's newly renovated wing. The next few hours unfolded as any family stay at a hotel usually does, complete with excited kids and a take-out dinner. However, it was when Bugden's delivery of St-Hubert chicken arrived that her sense of safety in the hotel came crashing down – literally.

"The delivery man wasn't receiving a signal on the Interac machine I was using to pay for the food," said Bugden. "He took a few steps back in the hallway to try and get a signal, and out of nowhere a big piece of the ceiling fell down on top of him. It looked like it just about knocked him unconscious."

The "newly renovated" ceiling panel, which Bugden estimated to be one square metre, left delivery man Charles Matte with a newly renovated forehead, specifically a large bruise and a bloody gash. Quickly coming to his aid, Bugden said she was unable to lift the panel off Matte without his help.

After Bugden called the front desk, Matte was guided away by a Forestel employee who joked that the hotel "didn't like delivery boys."

Matte opted not to visit the hospital or seek medical attention after the strange incident, and decided not to pursue legal action against Forestel.

"I'm not angry at anybody, they took care of me," said Matte, adding that the hotel provided him with financial compensation for the deliveries he failed to make while recovering at the front desk. However, even the particularly hard-headed delivery man couldn't deny the immense hazard that falling pieces of ceiling presents.

"I'm a big boy, I can handle these types of things," said Matte with a laugh. "But if that panel had fallen on a child or an elderly person, they could've been seriously hurt."

Matte estimated that the panel that fell on him weighed close to 100 pounds. Neither was the danger of the falling tile lost on Bugden. She said the incident shocked her into being increasingly cautious while navigating the four-star establishment's hallways with her young children.

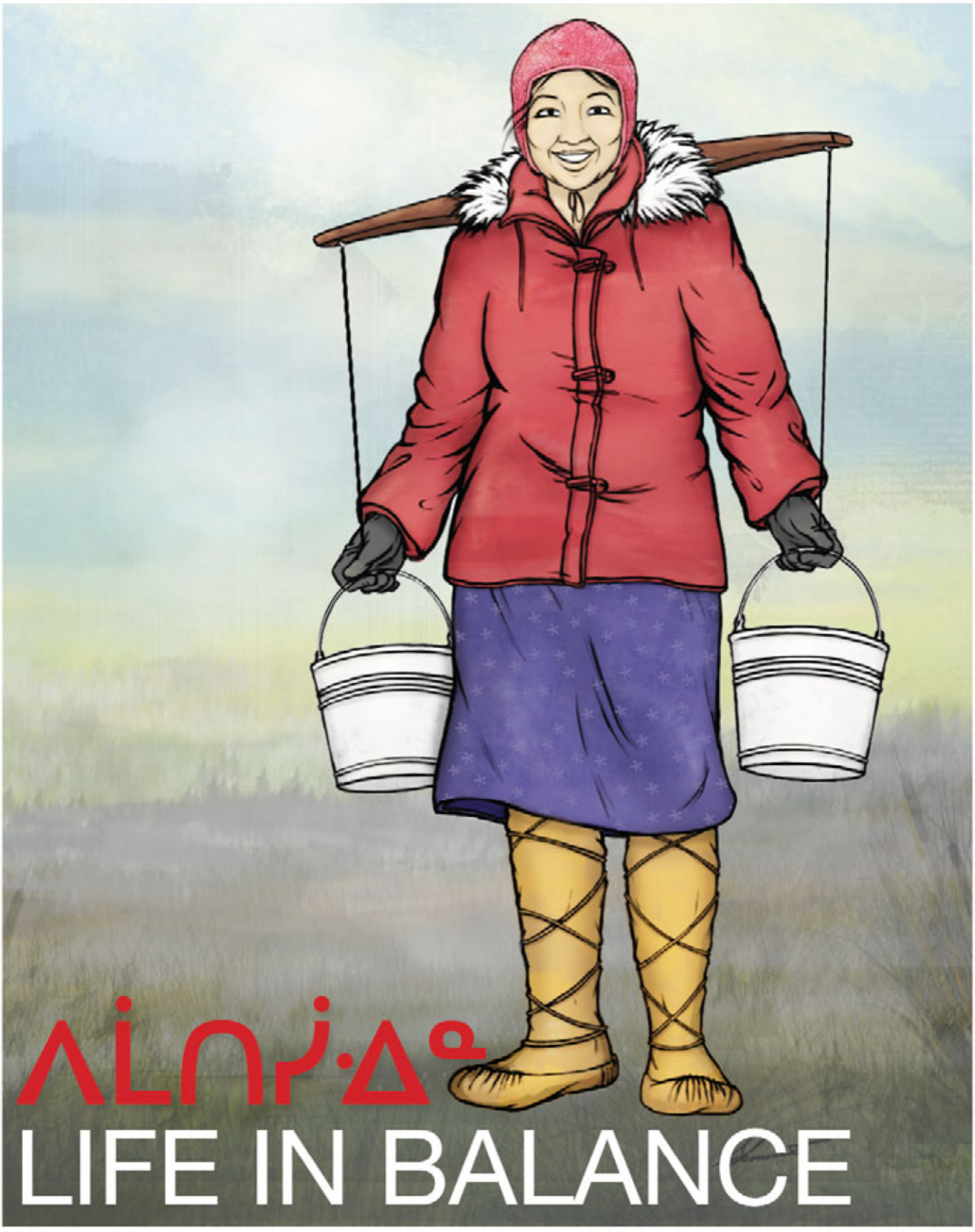
"If I'm paying $163 for a hotel room, I expect to be able to walk down the halls safely with my kids," said Bugden, adding that the reactions of hotel staff to the incident led her to suspect this wasn't the first time structural issues surrounding Forestel's new renovations had caused problems.

Forestel management told The Nation that this was first time such an incident had occurred, adding that the panel may have been knocked out of place earlier in the day by someone holding their luggage above their head. They did not have any safety advice for our readers regarding falling ceiling panels. However, the Well-Being and Safety section of the hotel's website does advise that clients use the supplied "Do Not Disturb" cards to ensure peace, quiet and comfort during their stay. The Nation recommends carrying a stack of these cards protectively above your head at all times when venturing through Forestel's hallways – particularly if you're delivering chicken.

Photo by Ancita Bugden

The "newly renovated" ceiling panel, which Bugden estimated to be one square metre, left delivery man Charles Matte with a newly renovated forehead.

Photo by Ancita Bugden



NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Unwinding the red tape

The Grand Council hosts an information session on the Cree Nation's many agreements

Story by Jesse Staniforth Photos by Harriet Trapper

Everyone in Eeyou Istchee has heard of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement, the Cree-Naskapi Act, and many of the other agreements that have taken place between the Cree Nation and Quebec or Canada. But how many people really understand now these fundamental documents govern the lives of the James Bay Cree?

To answer that question, the Grand Council of the Crees organized a two-day information session in Val d'Or October 30-31 for an in-depth explanation of various agreements.

These included:

- the JBNQA;
- the Cree-Quebec and Cree-Canada New Relationship Agreements;
- the Cree Nation Governance Agreement;
- the Paix des Braves;
- the Cree-Naskapi Act;
- and the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement.

"It was a very informative two days of presentations from people who were on the front lines when these key Cree Nation agreements were negotiated and finalized," said event moderator Rodney Hester, who is the director of government support services for the Cree Regional Authority. "We were very fortunate to be able to hear from some of our most prominent Cree leaders about their motivations, strategies and struggles, and what they went through in order to conclude these historic agreements."

For Hester, the Grand Council felt a need to offer the Cree public a clear understanding of these agreements. "As a responsible government, it's important to provide information to all our people in a way that reflects transparency and accountability," he said.

Attracting over 240 registered participants, Hester said the event generated positive feedback and succeeded in its goals. "We wanted to communicate an understanding of what this history means to us as we look on into future," he explained. "There was representation from all our communities, the regional entities, entrepreneurs and students."

The event received media attention from print and radio outlets, and a live-stream feed of the proceedings reached

Rodney Hester

Philip Awashish and Robert Kanatewat.

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about 1,000 viewers. In the days since the event, reports Hester, over 7,700 people have watched video of the sessions.

"I can't say for certain that [all the viewers] were from Eeyou Istchee, but I know a great percentage of them were. What the Crees of Eeyou Istchee have managed to accomplish in recent years has gained an audience beyond Eeyou Istchee. Lots of other nations are looking in our direction to see our development and how we advance our governance. We've become a shining example of how we can improve First Nations governance."

The event follows the Grand Council's round-table meeting on Capacity Building in Ottawa last March. Hester says that it constituted the planning session for a second phase, which will "consist of us going into the communities and communicating these same messages, so that our people understand all the accomplishments that have been made – and also understand that there are some key opportunities for them to be part of as we further our development."

There are both economic and public service opportunities, he added. "We need to develop the capacity among our people so that we can take full advantage of our governance."

Like most Cree leaders, Hester is aware of the critical mass of youth in Eeyou Istchee, and their need for decent employment in the years to come. He noted the power of the Idle No More movement over the past year, and recalled one of the comments made by speaker and JBNQA signatory Robert Kanatewat.

"In essence," Hester said, "the statement he made was that for the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, the Idle No More movement started in early 1970s."

But Hester is quick to underline that the progress gained in the past continues today.

"What governance will allow going forward is for our people to enjoy a wage economy and support the traditional lifestyle – it will further that development. To support that balance, there will be significant developments on both the political and economic fronts. What this is about is organizing ourselves to be at the forefront, to take full advantage of the opportunities that are before us."

Hester invoked celebrated Osoyoos Chief Clarence Louie's comments on the historical importance of the JBNQA: "It's important to reflect on the struggle that produced the first modern-day treaty. Never forget the people and leadership that blazed the trail in creating the JBNQA. They took on a corporate giant and forced both the federal and provincial governments to acknowledge Cree rights. Follow in the footsteps of your leaders, both past and present. A lot of work has yet to be done. The implementation of the JBNQA and the agreements that follow will be an important task for future generations. The youth have to carry the weight of the agreement into the future, and a balance of traditional and modern education will be very important."

Hester said Chief Louie's words rang true with many people in the room.

"We need all of our youth to carry the weight of this agreement forward," Hester said. "This was communicated to everyone at the presentation – there's a growing understanding that we need to further our development. What we have achieved in the Cree Nation is well in advance of other Indigenous peoples. This does not come without huge sacrifices. We have been extremely well-led."

The event also included a tribute to those leaders who signed the JBNQA, but have since passed away. In a show of respect, the session observed a moment of silent reflection and remembrance.

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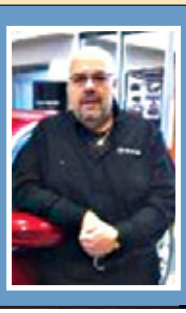

Richard Michel and CarCanada, would like to wish *the Nation* and its team a happy 20th Anniversary. Thank you for your continued partnership! We look forward to working with you for many years to come.
HAPPY 20th

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

The greed for war

by Xavier Kataquapit

Here in the wilderness, near the lake under a sea of sparkling stars, I feel great peace as I watch the flames dance from my campfire. Though we often take peace for granted, we all owe the many young men and women who in the past fought for our freedom, our democracy and for fairness in this world. In some cases, unfortunately, they fought and died in wars that did not have to happen, wars that were based on deception and narrow self-interest.

On Remembrance Day, I think of my two grandfathers who fought in the First World War. A zealous military official plucked James Kataquapit and 24 other boys from Attawapiskat by convincing them to follow him south, then east to Halifax, and finally to the war in Europe. My other grandfather, John Chookomolin, did not survive, falling to the Spanish flu soon after arriving in England on a troop ship in 1917. He was part of the Canadian Foresters and today, 96 years later, his body still lies in a quaint cemetery at Englefield Green near Windsor Great Forest in western London.

I am a history enthusiast. For many years I have studied our past, from the early days of mankind to modern times. One thing I discovered is that war is a common and regular occurrence in human history. That realization is more than a little depressing. Even though we have generally evolved into a civilization that is much less violent, more tolerant and more aware than ever that our common survival is based on finding ways to get along, wars are still a part of our life.

War is always about power, greed and control of resources. Power brokers, governments and money people have always justified wars on religious, nationalist and false flag incidents. Any time those in power felt the need to increase their fortunes they simply devised situations to inflame the public so they would support armed aggression that, in the end, only made the very rich even richer while the poor fought and died. Time and again young men and women fought the good fight not knowing they were actually advancing hidden agendas.

More than ever, the kings of commerce and industry continue to direct governments and its peoples to invade countries to either protect their interests or to take over valuable resources. Although there have been enlightened periods in our history, most of the time war has been a reality. It is strange to realize that as a civilization we have become better to each other but that those same greedy, controlling power brokers are still waging war to fill their pockets. The modern military-industrial complex ensures that markets for their weapons remain lucrative, and to achieve this end the killing must centime. It really is a win/win situation for the dark side of humanity.

There does not seem to be much we can do stop war as a choice for those in power but perhaps at the very least we can come to the realization that nothing can justify such violent crusades. We must be more aware of the history of war and we should be very wary of jumping on nationalistic bandwagons built around expertly staged and promoted crises.

This Remembrance Day I will spend some quiet time recalling the death and destruction caused by war and I will say my prayers that we as individuals will produce a way to pressure those in power to find other more peaceful ways to manage our planet. Sadly, it is my guess that if we do not do this we may be entering another one of those periods known as the dark ages. I would prefer a renaissance.

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Site: Wemindji and the Chibougamau region.

JOB SUMMARY
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QUALIFICATIONS
- Asset: Vocational Diploma in electronics – Cable and Telecommunication Equipment Repairer or an equivalent diploma;
- Valid driver's licence Class 3.

TITLE: NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER TECHNICIAN
Location: Wemindji and Mistissini.

JOB SUMMARY
Under the responsibility of the Director General or Network Operations Analyst, the Network Operations Center Technician (NOC), monitors the network and solves problems efficiently.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Knowledge of IP networks;
- Alcatel-Lucent NRS Certification, Cisco CCNA or an equivalent certification is considered an asset;
- DEC in Computer Science Technologies or Network Technologies is considered an asset.

TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN
Site: Chapais, Chibougamau, Lebel-Sur-Quévillon, Matagami, Radisson, Mistissini, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Ouje-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, Whapmagoostui, Eastmain, Nemaska and Waskaganish.

JOB SUMMARY
Under the responsibility of the Director General, the Administrative Technician accomplishes various tasks related to all facets of ECN's administrative processes.

QUALIFICATIONS
- DEC in Administration;
- 5 to 10 years of experience;

TITLE: CUSTOMER SOLUTIONS EXPERT
Location: Chapais, Chibougamau, Lebel-Sur-Quévillon, Matagami, Radisson, Mistissini, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Ouje-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, Whapmagoostui, Eastmain, Nemaska and Waskaganish.

JOB SUMMARY
Under the responsibility of the Director General, the Customer Solutions Expert advises ECN's clients providing them with technological solutions according to their needs, in collaboration with the Network Operations Analyst. He is also responsible of the market development and is the main point of contact with ECN's clients. The Customer Solutions Expert is under ECN's Director General.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Advanced knowledge of IP networks;
- DEC or Bachelor Degree in networking or a related field is considered an asset.

TITLE: TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN
Site: Chapais, Chibougamau, Lebel-Sur-Quévillon, Matagami, Radisson, Mistissini, Wemindji, Chisasibi, Ouje-Bougoumou, Waswanipi, Whapmagoostui, Eastmain, Nemaska and Waskaganish.

JOB SUMMARY
Under the responsibility of the Director General or Network Operations Analyst, the Telecommunication Technician goes on sites to solve network problems.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Asset: Vocational Diploma or DEC in a related field;
- Asset: Experience as Computer or Network Technician.

For more information, please visit the CHRD website at www.chrd.ca Apply via email at: rh@eeyou.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

PENPALS WANTED

My name is Morwen Tregudda. I am a British woman aged 63, living in a village in the UK. I would like to correspond with people of the Cree Nation, especially elders. Je sais écrire en français aussi – but not yet in Cree. Perhaps you can teach me. My interests include : North American cultures and history, languages, wildlife, herbal medicine, reading, I like writing real letters and exchanging photos, postcards, brochures and magazines. Please write to: Ms. Morwen M. Tregudda, 7 Longrow, Sheffield, Paul Penzance, TR19 6UN, Cornwall, UK/ RU

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings in Mistissini: Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesday's Hope Meeting, are at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alanon Meetings** are on Tuesdays as well at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alateen Meetings** are on Mondays at 3:30PM at the Reception Centre 282 Main Street. These meetings are all open meetings.

TD Scholarships for Community Leadership - Apply today! Applications available at Your high school or CEGEP (in Quebec) Online at www.td.com/scholarship or Call 1-800-308-8306 TTY (Text telephone) 1-800-361-1180

Cultural Manual for Foster and Adoptive parents of Aboriginal Children, launched at the last Gathering of the NETWORK on October 3... CHECK IT OUT! www.reseaumtl-network.com/eng/Portals/5/Cultural%20Manual.pdf

The Aviva Community Fund is Canada's longest running online community competition. With over $2.5 million dollars given away to date, the Aviva Community Fund is making a difference in communities across the country. Submit your idea for positive change and have a chance at sharing in this year's $1 million Aviva Community Fund.

For more info go to http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/

Kid's Help Phone Line:
1-800-668-6868
(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085
(www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.
514-843-4333
(www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626
(www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626
(www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:
1-800-363-9010
(www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:
1-866-277-3553
(www.suicide-quebec.net)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

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On behalf of
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Cree Regional Authority
Administration régionale Crie
CAPITAL WORKS & SERVICES

Lee-Roy Blacksmith: Our new Regional Fire Marshall

Mr. Lee-Roy Blacksmith was recently appointed Regional Fire Marshall for the Cree Regional Authority. He will be working closely with all the communities to ensure the implementation of the Fire Protection By Law. Lee-Roy reports to the Coordinator of Capital Works, David Tordjman, within the department of Capital Works and Services directed by Mr. Henry Mianscum. He will be collaborating closely with the Fire Chiefs in all of our Cree communities by providing them with technical support and guidance to enhance the delivery of fire prevention and fire protection services.

Lee-Roy was previously Fire Chief for the Waswanipi community with over ten years' experience in their fire department. He successfully completed his firefighters' certification in Alberta which is recognized by the Ecole Nationale des Pompiers du Quebec (ENPQ).

We recently learned that our new Regional Fire Marshall is also a hero! On September 4th, 2013 the Waswanipi Fire Department received a call reporting a house fire on Popular Street. When the crew first arrived on the scene they were notified of the presence of someone in the burning house.

As Fire Chief, Lee-Roy Blacksmith, with one of his firefighters' John Saganash went in search of the person where the fire first originated on the main floor. During their exploration John was forced to leave the premises due to an injury while crawling upstairs to the bedroom. When Lee-Roy re-entered with another firefighter, William Icebound, to continue their search for the missing person they found her unresponsive and sitting in an upright position

The firemen moved furniture to rapidly access the victim. Lee-Roy grabbed her and got her out of the house while William led them out to safety. As soon as they were outside Lee-Roy began applying CPR on the victim. She then regained consciousness but required continuous first-aid from Lee-Roy and a certified paramedic M. Pierre Bertrand until the ambulance arrived for transport to the clinic.

The victim was quickly transferred to a hospital in Montreal for treatment of significant burns. She is slowly recovering but is thankful to Lee-Roy, the fire-fighters, emergency response staff and volunteers that saved her life.